



City of Hollister
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT
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FENCING, SCREENING, AND WALLS

If I want to build a new fence on my property, what is the height limit for a fence located in my front, side, or rear yard?

Table 17.16.-1 Maximum Height of Fences and Walls

Location	Maximum Height (1)
Within <u>front yard</u> setback	Three feet or four feet with administrative approval from the City Planner.
Within <u>side and rear yard</u> setbacks	<p>Six feet with an additional two feet lattice as the fence appears from a parcel or right-of-way abutting the site. Any solid fence over six feet. is not permitted in a residential district.</p> <p>An administrative permit is required for a fence that exceeds six feet in height in a non-residential district.</p>
Within <u>street side setback/Corner lot</u>	Three feet to six feet with an administrative approval from the City Engineer.

See Below Figure 17.16.1 Fence Heights of the Hollister Municipal Code CHMC

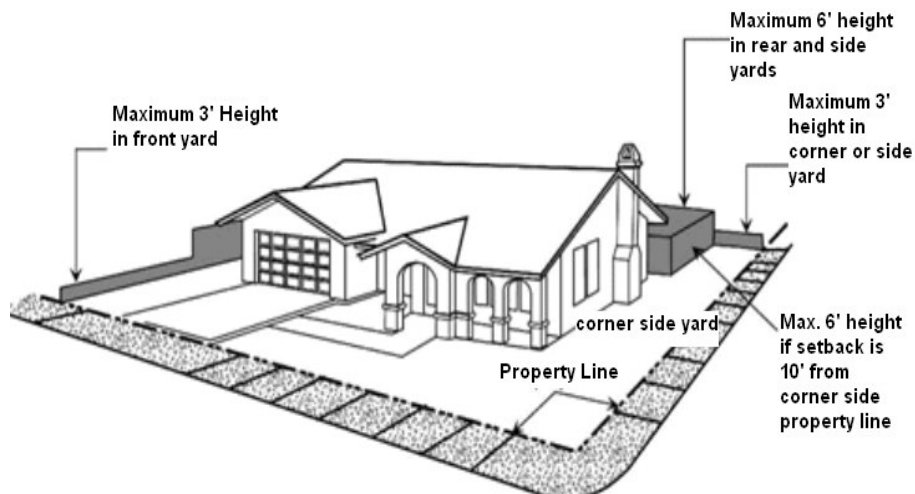


Figure 17.16.1 Fence Heights

Note: There is a link to the Hollister Municipal Code at www.hollister.ca.gov
 Handout Revised: 06/08/09 in accordance with 2008 Zoning Ordinance No. 1038, 17.16.050

What if I want to build a retaining wall?

Retaining walls greater than two feet in height shall be subject to administrative engineering approval. All retaining walls shall be a minimum of two feet from the back of any sidewalk. Embankments to be retained that are over 48 inches in height shall be benched so that no individual retaining wall exceeds a height of 36 inches, and each bench is 36 inches. Wood retaining walls are prohibited. See Figure 17.16.2 Fences and Retaining Walls (HMC)

How do I measure the fence or wall height?

- a.) Fence height shall be measured as the vertical distance between the finished grade at the base of the fence and the top edge of the fence material.
- b.) The height of fencing atop a wall shall be measured from the base of the wall. See Figure 17.16.2 Fences and Retaining Walls (HMC)
- c.) Where the ground elevation within six feet of the base of a fence differs from one side of the fence to the other (as when a fence is placed on top of a slope or on a retaining wall) See Figure 17.16.2 Fences and Retaining Walls (HMC)

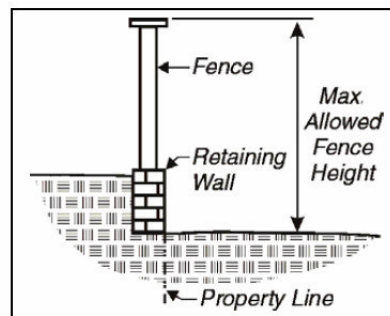


Figure 17.16.2
Fences and Retaining Walls

What if I have a swimming pool, spa, or other similar water feature?

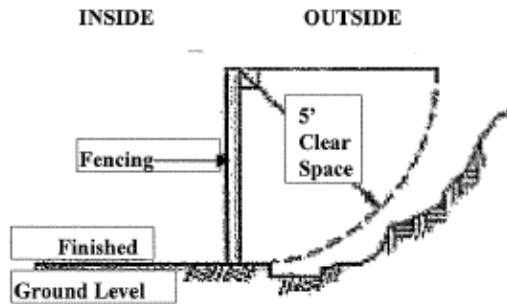
A fence is required and must be in compliance with **California Building Code** requirements as follows:

- a.) The enclosure shall have a minimum height of five feet and a perpendicular height of five feet as measured from the outside. See Figure 31 B-5 Effective Fencing Height for Pool Area.
- b.) Openings, holes or gaps in the enclosure, doors and/or gates shall not allow the passage of a 4-inch diameter sphere. The bottom of the enclosure shall be within 2 inches of the finished grade.
- c.) The enclosure shall be designed and constructed so that it cannot be readily climbed by small children. Horizontal and diagonal member designs are prohibited. Horizontal members shall be spaced at least 48 inches apart. Planters or other structures shall not be permitted to encroach upon the clear span area as depicted in Figure 31 B-5 Effective Fencing Height for Pool Area. Chain link may be used, provided the openings are not greater than 1 ¾" measured horizontally.

Pool Gates:

Gates and doors shall be equipped with self-closing and self-latching devices to keep the gate securely closed.

One exit must have a means of egress without a lock for emergency purposes.



**Figure 31 B-5 California Building Code
Effective Fencing Height for Pool Area**

What if I need temporary security fencing?

Temporary security fencing (including chain link) with a maximum height of six feet may be erected around the property lines of vacant property. The vacant property shall be maintained in a weed and litter free condition.

What materials are prohibited from being used as fencing material?

Sheet or corrugated iron, steel, aluminum, bamboo, or asbestos are prohibited, with the exception of ornamental fences approved by the Director. Barbed wire, razor wire, or electrified or similar type fences are prohibited.

What if I want to provide a screen using plant materials or another type of decorative solid masonry wall?

Planted screen or Planning Commission approved decorative masonry wall are permitted. The hedge or wall must not exceed six feet in height but also follows the same height and set back guidelines as fence installation.

The decorative wall shall be architecturally treated on both sides, subject to the approval of the Planning Commission. A landscaping strip with a minimum width of five feet shall be installed adjacent to a screening wall. The property owner shall also be responsible for the long-term maintenance of the landscape screening. Openings or pedestrian connections may be required at the discretion of the Planning Commission.

